

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 150

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 44

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 150—Relative to commemorating the Russian people for their contributions and impact during World War II.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 11, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 150, Papan. Russian contribution to ending World War II.

This measure would commemorate the contributions and impact of the Russian people in ending World War II and would honor these individuals on Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day), May 8, 1998. The measure also would memorialize, and would encourage all Californians to remember, the loss of Russian lives during World War II.

WHEREAS, More than half a century has passed since the tragic events of World War II transpired; and

WHEREAS, World War II lasted six years and a day, and, in both human and material terms, its cost was appalling and, in certain aspects, beyond any estimation; and

WHEREAS, The invasion of peaceful European nations by Nazi Germany in 1939 triggered the devastation of World War II; and

WHEREAS, It was Japan and not Germany that ultimately plunged the United States into World War II and the United States joined allied nations to restore the liberty of peace-loving people and the sovereignty of every nation; and

WHEREAS, It began for the United States on December 7, 1941, when Japanese aircraft attacked the United States Pacific fleet at anchor in Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and propelled enraged Americans to arms; and

WHEREAS, The United States, Canada, and Great Britain declared war on Japan on December 8, 1941, and Germany and Italy declared war on the United States on December 11, 1941; and

WHEREAS, Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin, the leaders of the three major allied powers, Great Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union, were known during World War II as the "Big Three," and they and their military advisers planned the strategy that eventually defeated the Axis; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union and its people played a pivotal role that hastened the end of the war in Europe; and

WHEREAS, For example, the Russian people during their confrontations with the Germans are to be commended for their

offensive operations in Belorussia between the fall of 1943 and the winter of 1944 when, at a cost of heavy casualties, Russian forces advanced from 50 to 100 kilometers into east Prussia against the Germans; and

WHEREAS, In addition, of importance is the Russian offensive where Russian troops moved slowly forward during the summer and fall of 1943, and, in January 1944, ended the siege of Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), which had begun in 1941; and

WHEREAS, The capture of Berlin, then Germany's capital, was left to Russian forces, and by April 25, 1945, Russian troops had surrounded the city and from a bunker deep underground Adolf Hitler ordered German soldiers to fight on, but committed suicide himself on April 30, 1945; and

WHEREAS, On May 7, 1945, Colonel General Alfred Jodl, Chief of Staff of the German armed forces signed a statement of unconditional surrender at General Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters in Reims, France, ending World War II in Europe; and

WHEREAS, A separate German surrender to the Soviet Union was signed at Karlshorst, near Berlin, on May 8, 1945; and

WHEREAS, Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day), May 8, commemorates the unconditional surrender of Germany to Allied Forces; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate to recognize the combined labors and sacrifices of our European allies, especially those of the Russian people who accelerated the end of World War II; and

WHEREAS, Russia's front against the Third Reich during World War II led to a quicker restoration of international peace and security in the European Theater; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union suffered about 7¹/₂ million battle deaths and 19 million civilian deaths, an abominable loss of lives; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That, the Legislature memorializes this overwhelming loss of Russian lives during World War II; and be it further

Resolved, That in recognition of the contributions and impact that the Russian people had in expediting the end of World War II, it is appropriate that these individuals be honored on May 8, 1998, the anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day); and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature encourages all Californians to join in honoring the Russian people who fought as our allies during World War II; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature also encourages all Californians to remember the loss of so many Russian lives during World War II; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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